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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/541,902	04/03/2000	Kenji Mori	Q58624	5026

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EXAMINER	
NGUYEN, MADELEINE ANH VINH	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2626	

DATE MAILED: 07/20/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/541,902	Applicant(s) MORI, KENJI	
	Examiner Madeleine AV Nguyen	Art Unit 2626	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *13 May 2004*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-14* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-14* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This communication is responsive to amendment filed on May 13, 2004.

Claims 1, 2, 8-11 and 14 are amended.

Response to Applicant's Remarks

Applicant remarks that there is no suggestion of a memory included in the Anabuki apparatus as shown in Fig.1 for storing the expanded data after expansion from expanding portion 4. Applicant further notes that the claimed memory (reading buffer 27) can recognize the format of image data after the expanding process, performs conversion of resolution of image data and reading out the image data.

It is noted that claim 1 claims an expanded image memory for storing expanded image data and claim 3 further claims a reading buffer for expansion for reading the expanded image data from the expanded image memory and supplying it to the expander. Thus, there are two different memory/buffer(s). In addition, claim 2 states that the image data supply means reads expanded image data in the first color space from the expanded image memory and convert the read image data to the second color space. There is nowhere claiming the expanded image memory recognizes the format of image data and performs conversion of resolution of image data. In addition, the reading buffer 27 is a reading buffer for printing and not a reading buffer for expansion as claimed in claim 3.

In addition, there is a conflict in claims 2-3. Claim 3 claims a reading buffer for expansion for supplying the expanded image data to the expander. As stated in claim 1, the

expander is for expanding compressed image data. There is no need for the expanded image data to be supplied back to the expander since the expanded image data is already expanded or is not compressed data. The same with claim 4.

Regarding Anabuki et al, as stated in the previous office action, Anabuki does not directly teach a memory for storing the expanded image data. However, in the Summary of the Invention, Anabuki teaches the well-known prior art of the image data, while being separated, are stored in an image database (col. 2, lines 50-53). In addition, Anabuki teaches the separation of image data into the character data and the pictorial data wherein the image data is transferred or stored in a memory (col. 4, line 64 – col. 5, line 7). From Fig.1, the input image data are separated and transferred to the expanding portion 4. Thus, the expanding portion 4 can include a memory for storing separated image data. In addition, in Fig.15, Anabuki discloses a transmission buffer 79 for storing separated compressed data before being expanded (col. 17, lines 15-18, lines 59-62; col. 18, lines 4-16). Furthermore, Anabuki teaches that the first image structure converting portion 5 and the second image resolution converting portion 6 receive image data from the expanding portion 4 and the image structure storing portion 8. Besides, Anabuki teaches different memory/buffer which are not shown such as an external storage device as input portion 1 (col. 4, lines 4-7), a storage device for storing combined image data (col. 4, lines 28-32), a header for storing information on the image structures of the image data (col. 6, lines 9-11), lookup tables for storing input values (col. 8, lines 29-30). Since Anabuki teaches that "the storage devices and converting devices, which are required, are reduced in number and hence the image processing apparatus is simplified in its configuration" (col. 10, lines 12-15). Thus, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to include an expanded

image memory for storing expanded image data in Anabuki since Anabuki confirms the presence of storage devices in his system are required, but in order to simplify the image processing apparatus, the number of storage devices are reduced.

Conclusion

The rejection of claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anabuki et al in view of Smith et al is maintained.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Madeleine AV Nguyen whose telephone number is 703 305-4860. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kimberly A Williams can be reached on 703 305-4863. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Madeleine AV Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2626

July 16, 2004